

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – February 11, 2022 1:30 PM

- Good afternoon.
- It has been a busy day so far, and I will speak first to Windsor, where we have seen significant developments.

POEs – Windsor, Cornwall, Coutts, Emerson, Other

Windsor

- Following yesterday's Ontario Superior Court to remove protesters blocking traffic to the Ambassador Bridge, Windsor police provided notice to demonstrators that anyone involved in blocking streets must immediately cease unlawful activity or face charges, and that vehicles or other property related to the offence may be seized.
- There was a significant reduction in the number of protestors in the overnight hours, and of the vehicles remaining none were tractor trailers.
- As you will have seen in the media, a police operation started this morning to secure the Ambassador Bridge. This is still underway, but progress is being made in clearing protestors out and securing the area.
- Public Order Units from the RCMP (66 members), London Police Service, and OPP are on site. The total number of OPP members in Windsor is approximately 120.
- There is information of an additional convoy from London moving towards Windsor. We are monitoring the situation.
- There are no outstanding requests from city or provincial officials at this time.

[APG]

Cornwall

- As of this morning, there is a protest in Cornwall. Toll attendants on duty at the Seaway International Bridge Corporation noticed people moving to block the canal bridge.
- There are about 70 to 75 people on site, and 20 to 25 vehicles. Vehicles consist mostly of tractors, large farm equipment, and personal pick-up trucks. Demonstrators are not on the bridge, and Cornwall Police are on site securing the bridge.
- Akwesasne Mohawk Police and the OPP are also on site. No request has been made to the RCMP at this time.

Coutts

- The situation at Coutts is moving along consistently, and we continue to engage with protestors.
- Gradual progress is being made – we have gone from approximately 250 trucks to currently about 40.
- The situation continues to evolve, but my team on the ground has tactical and operational plans in place. Focus is on assessing risks and opportunities from the perspective of public and officer safety.
- The Commanding Officer continues to engage with the Premier and other Government officials.
- In order to ensure collective control over vehicle access to the protest site and public safety, the RCMP has requested that the CBSA temporarily suspend border clearance services at the Coutts POE.

[APG]

- This temporary measure would also ensure public and officer safety and will remain in effect until the protestors are agreeable to allowing public and commercial traffic to flow through the POE.
- The office would remain operational, but border clearances would be temporarily suspended.
- This measure goes into effect today at 1:00 PM MT.
- Premier Kenney has indicated he will be reaching into Federal Ministers today. A request for CAF s.38 is likely pending.
- As you know, Article 9 has been invoked to provide additional resources in Alberta.

Emerson

- As of this morning the POE at Emerson remains blocked. A few of the vehicles and campers were removed last night during a storm.
- Approximately 35 vehicles remain on site. The exact number of persons is estimated at about 20, with persons coming and going.
- Current weather conditions are very cold at minus 25C, with a windchill factor of minus 35C.
- All other Ports of Entry in Manitoba remain open and there is no protest activity or disruption.
- The focus of efforts today will be to have the group open up at least on lane of traffic for cross border travel.

[APG]

- Approximately 16 members are dedicated to this event at this time, with more available if needed.
- At present, there have been no requests from the Province of Manitoba, nor any indication that they will be seeking to invoke Article 9.

Other POEs

- In addition to these areas, there are reports of protestors near the Marine Atlantic facility in North Sydney, Nova Scotia. There are a couple of pickup trucks and approximately 12 vehicles blocking regular access to ticket booths. There are no impacts on operations at this time; however, there could be impacts on traffic trying to reach the site for the 11:30 PM sailing.

Ottawa

- There were no significant events overnight in Ottawa, or so far this morning.
- Ottawa Police are continuing with a measured approach, enforcing when it is safe to do so – a “Maintenance” posture. With the volume of protestors expected, this is the safest approach.
- There is reporting of a number of potential convoys coming to Ottawa today, including 11 from Quebec, but we do not have any confirmed numbers at this stage. We did expect that we would see increased numbers over the weekend.
- There are no concerns related to critical infrastructure downtown at this time.
- While Ottawa Police continues to receive support from the OPP and other municipal police services, I do not have the details on the number of people that they have deployed.

[APG]

- The RCMP continues to have approximately 345 members deployed daily in support of our protective mandate.
- Today we are deploying 210 uniform members in support of the Ottawa Police Service – 3 shifts of 70 members each. In fact, we have 78 on the ground right now. These members are generally deployed to static posts/traffic duties, and are on standby if needed for Quick Response Teams.
- This is complemented by the Command structure, logistics, Comms, and admin support (included in the MOU) which exceed the 250 agreement.
- Our numbers remain more than in line with what we had committed to provide to support the Ottawa Police Service – every ask they have made has been filled.
- As I have previously indicated, neither the OPP nor the RCMP will make a specific commitment until the work of the Integrated Planning Cell is complete, as it is the plan developed through this process that will determine the detailed resource requirements and how many will come from each agency.
- This plan is with Chief Sloly for approval. Both myself and the OPP Commissioner have seen this plan and are supportive. If it is approved by Chief Sloly, I would be happy to provide you with a brief.
- I am speaking regularly with both Chief Sloly and the OPP Commissioner.
- For right now, between the resources provided by the RCMP and the OPP, we have met – and actually exceeded – the commitment made to the Ottawa Police Service’s “Maintenance” posture.
- Other than the intel we are monitoring with respect to additional convoys/protestors, there is no significant intel to report for Ottawa.

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Emergency Management Act

- We are actively engaged in the discussion on the implications of the Emergency Management Act and we are exploring what measures may be available from an operational perspective.

Engagement Proposal

- I have been working with DM Stewart and policing partners on the engagement proposal and we are supportive.

[APG]